

RESPONSE

This response is submitted to the final Office Action mailed June 9, 2006. A Request for a Continued Examination is being filed concurrently herewith in order to ensure full consideration of the foregoing Amendment.

Applicant also notes with appreciation the interview with Examiner La on July 6, 2006. During that discussion, claim 1 in the form of the attached Amendment and the invention generally were discussed.

As clarified in claim 1, the exceptions that are identified in the present invention are billing errors. The support in the specification for this amendment is found on pages 4 and 10-12 of the application.

As discussed with Examiner La, the fundamental invention of the present claims is directed to an auditing function. That is, the consumer of telecommunications services is protected by the program by making sure that the bills issued by the service provider are correct.

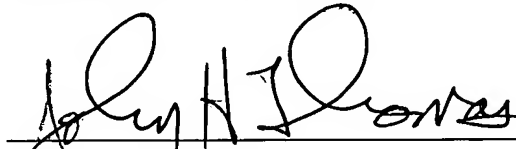
Applicant believes that an example might be helpful to understand the invention. The Marsh patent is directed to billing plan optimization. That is, a user may be inefficiently using a calling plan that is not optimized to meet their needs. Marsh helps the consumer pick the plan that will best fit the needs of the consumer at the lowest cost. The present invention in claim 1 does not consider whether or not a plan is most efficient or cost effective for a user. Instead, it ensures that a consumer is receiving what they have paid for from the service provider. In a simple example, the service provider may

contractually promise a calling toll rate of 10 cents per minute. When the bill is received, the service provider has charged 25 cents per minute. This represents an example of a billing error. The claimed method automatically identifies that billing error and seeks compensation or a refund for that error.

In view of the foregoing amendment, and for one or more of the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable action is requested hereon.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies in payment of the following fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2127.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Date: July 7, 2006

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the appropriate address at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office required under 37 C.F.R. §1.1(a) on July 7, 2006.

by: _____


John H. Thomas